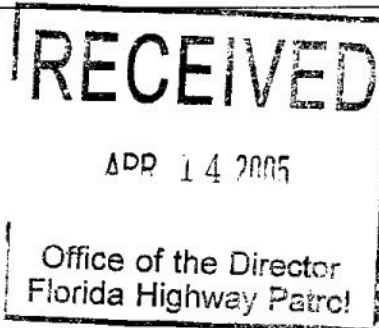


SUSAN E. HURST

April 8, 2005

Colonel Christopher Knight
Florida Highway Patrol
2900 Apalachee Parkway
Neil Kirkman Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399



Dear Colonel Knight,

I had a very positive experience with one of your officers, Sergeant Gregg E. Hodge. I would like to take a bit of your time from your busy day to share with you my story.

On Sunday, April 3, my car decided to run out of gas on highway 19/98/Alt. 27, 11 miles from the nearest town. Even though the gauge registered $\frac{1}{4}$ tank, the engine decided to stop performing. I was stranded on a busy highway, no cell phone coverage, no close town, and definitely no one I could trust to help me out.

A red Dodge pickup kept circling me and making me VERY nervous. After the third lap around the highway, the truck decided to pull in behind me. Needless to say, I was wondering what these two men wanted. You can best figure out what was going through my mind! I wouldn't roll down my windows and definitely would not get out of the car until these two men showed me some ID. The young man was an EMT and showed me his EMT license. His dad was with the state corrections department and likewise, showed me his credentials as well. I decided to get out of the car (I was so hot!) and thought that if I had to defend myself, I would locate the nearest red ant hill and kick the ants into their faces! (Well, I had to come up with a few ideas for survival, didn't I?!)

The young man said that he had asked for a State Police car to come by. They both thought I had gotten sick, that's why they stopped. The State Police was for backup. A few minutes later, Sergeant Hodge came by. Oh, what a relief! The red ants would not have to come to my rescue!

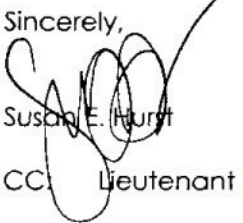
The father and son left, I gave them my thanks (and didn't get their names), and asked Sergeant Hodge to stay with me. He was able to get through to Triple A via his cell phone and his dispatcher's help. Sergeant Hodge said that he had planned on staying until help arrived.

Help finally did arrive and I was so thankful for Sergeant Hodge, the father and son team, and the dispatcher. It was a very uncomfortable situation that I wasn't sure how to handle, not being from that area and not knowing anyone as well. Sergeant Hodge was most professional, polite, courteous, and respectful. For that, I shall always thank him.

I hope that you will send him a little note telling him that I appreciate him and what he did to help. These days we have to be so very careful of who we talk to and trust. Too many unfortunate situations have occurred and I was determined not to become another statistic. Red ants or not, I was going to be a survivor!

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to read my letter. May your days be blessed with happiness and contentment.

Sincerely,


Susan E. Hurst

CC: Lieutenant Pat Reardon